

Message Text

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62

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 SMI-01 (ISO) W

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R 111310Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4596

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 3723

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IN, OEXC

SUBJECT: CALCUTTA ART SOCIETY: PROPOSED GIFT OF PAINTING

REF: 75 STATE 134385

1. CALCUTTA ART SOCIETY, WHICH HAD EARLIER OFFERED PAIR OF PEACOCKS AS BICENTENNIAL GIFT TO U.S., NOW PROPOSES OFFER PAINTING AS SUBSTITUTE. (CONGEN HAD DECLINED OFFER OF FOWL WITH THANKS AFTER RECEIPT REFTEL.) OIL PAINTING, APPROX, 6 FEET X 5 FEET, WHICH IS YET TO BE COMMISSIONED, WOULD DEPICT J.F. KENNEDY WITH NEHRU IN LIFE SIZE. SOCIETY WOULD AIRSHIP PAINTING TO ARRIVE NEW YORK AROUND JULY 4.

2. SOCIETY DESIRES THAT PAINTING BE PLACED IN BUILDING OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE IN WASHINGTON, DC WITH FREE ACCESS TO PUBLIC. TWO SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES WOULD TRAVEL TO NEW YORK AT SOCIETY'S EXPENSE TO PRESENT PAINTING AT FORMAL CEREMONY TO BE ORGANIZED BY RECIPIENT. RECIPIENT EXPECTED COVER TRANSPORTATION OF PAINTING FROM NEW YORK TO WASHINGTON, TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE OF SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES WITHIN U.S.

3. SOCIETY IS RESPECTED, WELL-INTENTIONED AND, AS DEPARTMENT WILL PERCEIVE FROM HISTORY OF THIS INITIATIVE, DETERMINED ORGANIZATION. PAINTING LIKELY TO BE OF GOOD QUALITY SINCE SOCIETY WOULD EMPLOY EMINENT ARTIST. INTERNAL US COSTS OF SOCIETY'S REPRESENTATIVES COULD PERHAPS BE COVERED WITH PARTIAL IVP GRANT.

4. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT EXPLORING WHETHER KENNEDY

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CENTER, SMITHSONIAN OR OTHER ORGANIZATION MIGHT BE

INTERESTED IN OFFER.SCHNEIDER

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